

NEWS BRIEFS

Power outage

Due to pending weather conditions, the base-wide electrical power outage has been rescheduled for midnight March 9th to no later than 10 a.m. March 10th. The outage allows the Tennessee Valley Authority to install a substation. Call Ext. 7429.

Change of command

Lieutenant Col. John Davidson will assume command of the 41st Flying Training Squadron from Lt. Col. Philip Koppa during a change of command ceremony at 2:41 p.m. Wednesday at the Wing Ceremonial Plaza. The inclement weather location will be Hangar One. Call Ext. 7680.

Assistance fund

The 2002 Air Force Assistance Fund campaign runs through March 29th. Call Ext. 3063 for information or a listing of the squadron and group representatives.

Barriers removed

The barriers around the wing headquarters building, on Harp Blvd. and on Independence have been removed. Drivers on Columbus AFB are reminded that that speed limit in this area is 25 mph and that they must yield to pedestrians crossing the roadways. Drivers should be on alert for golfers and golf balls. They are also reminded that the streets around the headquarters building are one-way streets and that they should obey the directional signs. Call Ext. 2519.

Official photos

The permanent official photo of Maj. Gen. James Sandstrom, 19th Air Force commander, is available at the public affairs office.

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John Jumper's official photo is also available. Call Ext. 7068.

Mission Report

As of Wednesday

T-37	
Goal: 2,631	
Flown: 2,744	
T-1A	T-38
Goal: 2,252.0 hrs.	Goal: 1,390
Flown: 2,274.8 hrs.	Flown: 1,421

14th MSS first sergeant receives 19th AF award

Senior Airman Amanda Mills Editor

A Columbus AFB master sergeant is the 19th Air Force First Sergeant of the Year.

Master Sgt. Dwight Eddings, 14th Mission Support Squadron, was notified of the award Monday by Col. Tom Quelly, 14th Flying Training Wing commander.

"First of all I give thanks to God, my family, squadron personnel, commanders and the first sergeant's council," Eddings said. "I am honored that the people I work for and with every day feel that I am deserving of this prestigious award. This is truly a blessing."

"Our Air Force is filled with superstars ... it's unfortunate we cannot recognize all of them," said Chief Master Sgt. James Roy, 14th Flying Training Wing command chief. "Competition for the 19th Air Force 12 Outstanding Airmen of the Year and First Sergeant of the Year was very tough in every category. Everyone assigned to Columbus AFB should be proud of the many accomplishments we've had over the year."

"Master Sgt. Eddings was one of those few singled out for special recognition," Roy said. "He was awarded the 19th Air Force First Sergeant of the Year because of his outstanding performance and professionalism during the year. His solid leadership at his home station coupled with the same while deployed were major factors in him being honored with this award. Additionally, his involvement throughout the wing and in the local community secured his standing among others in his competition."

Eddings won First Sergeant of the Year at the base level before he was selected at 19th Air Force level. He will now go on to compete at the major command level.

Some of Eddings' accomplishments include the leading and mentoring of 400 deployed members during a 110-day deployment in support of Operation Southern Watch, which he volunteered for; the chairing and organizing of a committee of senior enlisted people to



Staff Sgt. Shelby Martin
Master Sgt. Dwight Eddings, 14th Mission Support Squadron first sergeant, reviews the monthly personnel roster with Airman 1st Class Delvin McIntosh, 14th MSS commander support staff.

conduct a quality control check on deployment decorations; and the garnering of \$1,900 for wing quarterly awards and holiday donations.

Eddings also worked with the life skills flight to redesign the "We Care" program, increasing the awareness of suicide prevention for 230 commanders and supervisors and with the superintendent of the professional development center to design briefings and provide volunteer support.

Eddings also showed significant self-improvement when he was awarded his second Community College of the Air Force degree, completed the Basic

Critical Incident Stress Management course and when he completed the Office of Special Investigation's drug awareness training. Eddings also established and implemented a wing-wide First Sergeant's Challenge, which is a 12-month cardiovascular and strength training regime.

Eddings showed great base and community involvement during the year by setting up fundraisers for the First Sergeant's Council, Top 3 and multicultural committee, raising over \$5,000. He also solicited and managed 30 volunteers to support the Palmer Home store move, completed in four hours.



Patsy Wood
African American heritage

Retired Lt. Col. Herbert Carter, Tuskegee Airman, presents awards to African American Heritage Month essay contest winners Armentha Lewis of West Lowndes, Jennifer Judson of Columbus and Yolunda Nabors of New Hope, during the month's banquet Feb. 22nd. Carter was the guest speaker for this event.

579 officers selected for colonel

AIR FORCE PERSONNEL CENTER — The Calendar Year 2002 Central Line, Chaplain, Judge Advocate General, Medical Service Corps, Biomedical Sciences Corps, and Nurse Corps Colonel Boards selected 579 officers for promotion to colonel.

The promotees for Columbus AFB are Lt. Col. George Daniels, 14th Operations Group; and Lt. Col. Dawn Harl, 14th Medical Operations Squadron.

The entire list is posted on the Air Force Personnel Center's World Wide Web home page at <http://www.randolph.af.mil>.

The colonel's board convened here Dec. 3-7, to consider 4,717 lieutenant colonels for promotion. The results of the board are as follows:

Selection statistics in-the-promotion zone for colonel:

Line — 432 officers selected from 927 considered

Chaplain — 7 officers selected from 17 considered

JAG — 14 officers selected from 28 considered

NC — 11 officers selected from 33 considered

MSC — 17 officers selected from 34 considered

BSC — 13 officers selected from 26 considered

Selection statistics above-the-promotion zone for colonel:

Line — 2 officers selected from 980 considered

JAG — 1 officer selected from 48 considered

NC — 2 officers selected from 48 considered

MSC — 1 officer selected from 22 considered

Selection statistics below-the-promotion zone for colonel:

Line — 76 officers selected from 2157 considered

JAG — 1 officer selected from 71 considered

NC — 1 officer selected from 117 considered

MSC — 1 officer selected from 59 considered

TAX VOLUNTEERS

In addition to the Tax Office in Bldg. 268, Volunteer Income Tax Assistance volunteers are available to assist personnel with the preparation and electronic filing of their taxes. The volunteers will work out of the tax office as their regular duty schedules permit. The volunteers can be contacted directly for an appointment.

The volunteers are:

Maj. Russell Clinton, 14th Operations Group, Ext. 7157

First Lt. Anthony Barry, 50th Flying Training Squadron, Ext. 7752

First Lt. Jay Johnson, 48th Flying Training Squadron, Ext. 2723

Airman 1st Class Christopher Clinton, 14th Flying Training Wing staff agencies, Ext. 7020

Airman Hyun Park, 14th Support Group, Ext. 2772

Paul Merrifield, 14th SPTG, Ext. 7241

Katrina Watkins, 14th Communications Squadron, Ext. 7301



Speakers are needed for the Columbus AFB Speaker's Bureau. Anyone interested in speaking about the Air Force or their career field at civic clubs, career fairs, science fairs, elementary schools or high schools in the Golden Triangle area can call the public affairs office at Ext. 7068.



Some stop loss exemptees staying

AIR FORCE PERSONNEL CENTER — More than 1,300 people are deciding to forego their exemption and remain in the Air Force despite being a member of one of the 64 career fields released from Stop Loss.

After the Jan. 28 partial Stop Loss release, more than 5,000 Air Force members were personally contacted by their military personnel flights to discuss their options — one of which was to stay on active duty. The exemption allows people to retire or separate as early as March 15.

It was recently decided to allow some people who had taken permissive temporary duty and already began transitioning out of the service before Stop Loss took affect to have that TDY restored so they can have the full time to transition once Stop Loss is lifted for them, officials said.

"We would prefer that these people stay with us and are happy that more than 1,300 are," said Lt. Col. Rich Binger, chief of separations here. "The MPFs' job wasn't to push anyone to stay in, but to make the process of deciding as easy as possible."

People are being given up to 150 days to transition from the Air Force, said Binger. After processing a good number of decisions himself, Binger has seen quite a few people wanting to get out now. But he's also seen a good number wanting to wait until August.

"That's great! These people already have the training and experience to do their jobs. If they want to stay longer, we'll accommodate them," he said.

The next Stop Loss review is expected to be announced in late March. Waiver applications continue to be accepted. Currently, about 80 percent of waiver packages are being approved by the major commands.

Stop Loss was implemented Oct. 2 to allow the Air Force to meet mission requirements associated with the response to Sept. 11th's terrorist attacks. *(Courtesy of AFPC News)*

Law changes bring larger refunds

WASHINGTON — Changes to the earned income tax credit law may put some extra money in the pockets of some military people and their families when they file their 2002 federal income tax returns next year.

The EITC is a tax credit for people whose earned income is below a certain annual threshold. The credit reduces the amount of tax a person owes and may give the person a larger refund.

To be eligible for the EITC this filing season (tax year 2001 returns), earned income and modified adjusted gross income must both be less than \$28,281 for people with one qualifying child, less than \$32,121 for people with more than one qualifying child, and less than \$10,710 for people with no qualifying children. The taxpayer also cannot have investment income greater than \$2,450.

There are a number of other requirements. For example, people whose filing status is married filing separately are not eligible for the EITC.

Besides the change in the calculation of earned income, the law makes several other changes to the EITC for tax years beginning in 2002. Of particular interest to military personnel are the changes pertaining to qualifying children, particularly the tie-breaker rule. The tie-breaker rule determines who can claim the EITC on the basis of a particular child, who is a qualifying child of more than one person.

For more information on the EITC, contact local Internal Revenue Service officials or go to the IRS Web site. *(Courtesy of Air Force News)*

Gang violence researcher gives reasons, shows signs

Senior Airman Amanda Mills
Editor

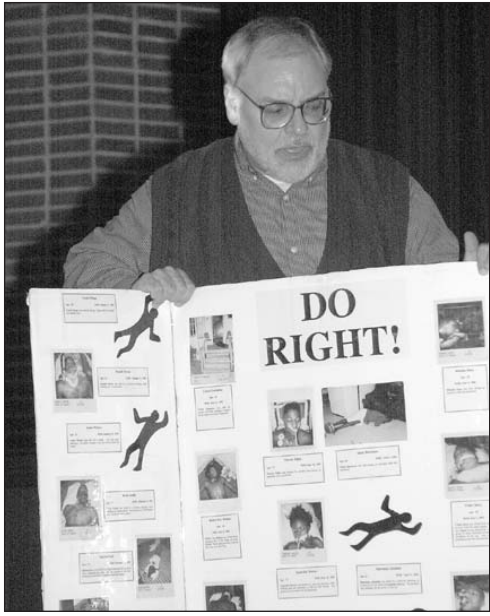
A gang violence briefing featuring nationally recognized gang researcher and educator Steve Nawojczyk was Tuesday at Lee Middle School in Columbus.

Nawojczyk spoke to an adult audience, mostly parents of children in the community, about how he began his research, why children join gangs and signs to look for. "I don't have all the answers," he said. "But I do know a little about what works and what doesn't."

Nawojczyk became interested in juvenile deaths while working as a coroner in Little Rock, Ark. "I began carrying pictures of young homicide victims, showing them to any child I talked to about violence. Soon there were so many [pictures] I had to paste them onto a posterboard."

Once a child is exposed to a gang, there are several reasons he or she will join it, Nawojczyk said. He then drilled the concepts of identification, recognition, discipline, belonging, love and respect into the audience. "It's important communities compete with gangs in these areas, and get the children away from the negative side of them. For example, influence your children into playing sports or joining an after-school program."

Sometimes parents aren't quick enough, and a child falls into the hands of a gang. "When this happens, you will begin to notice new things about your child," Nawojczyk said. Some identifiers are an obsession with colors or logos, graffiti infatuation and tattoos or brands. Watch for these signs. Sometimes people



Senior Airman Amanda Mills

Steve Nawojczyk shows off his posterboard of juvenile homicide victims.

say, 'Oh, they're just wannabes.' I say they're gonnabes."

Nawojczyk was brought to Columbus by members of the Junior Auxillary. "Two Columbus members were present when he spoke at our national convention, and we just knew we had to bring him in to talk about solutions our (Columbus) community can use," said Celia Ford, Columbus auxillary vice president. "Gangs are in our community, and we want to try to remedy that problem before it gets serious."

Because Columbus AFB children attend schools downtown, there is also the risk of this problem reaching into the base. "Air Force children are in community schools, too," said Maj. Brynn Morgan, 14th Flying Training Wing Legal office. "The more knowledge [of gangs] we can spread, the better."

Columbus AFB celebrates Women's History Month

Senior Airman Amanda Mills
Editor

In honor of Women's History Month, the multicultural committee is offering a "Brown Bag Cinema" at 11 a.m. Thursday and March 21 at the family support center.

The featured movies are "In Service to America: A History of Women in the Military," on Thursday and "The American Woman: Portraits of Courage," March 21.

"I believe that it is important to celebrate Women's History Month, and many of the other events we celebrate, because it builds awareness and tolerance," said Master Sgt. Hope Sanders, 14th Flying Training Wing career assistance advisor. "It helps to know that so many women have taken chances, sacrificed and contributed so much to this country that women do not have to feel hindered or limited because of their gender."

In an article entitled "Dreams Do Come True," the National Aeronautic and Space Administration highlights the first female space shuttle pilot for their tribute to the month.

U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Eileen Marie Collins is the first woman ever selected to be a space shuttle pilot and the first woman to command a space shuttle. In the Air Force she was a T-38 instructor pilot and a C-141 aircraft commander. Today she has flown more than 5,000 hours in more than 30 type of aircraft.

When Collins, 42, and her crew launch into space on Columbia in

Spring 1999, she will be taking with her the hopes and dreams of a nation of young people here on Earth.

About high school she said, "I began reading voraciously about famous pilots, from Amelia Earhart to Women Airforce Service Pilots who played an important role in WWII. Their stores inspired me. I admired the courage of these women to go and fly into dangerous situations!"

By 1977 Collins had saved enough money to earn a pilot's license and the following year graduated from Syracuse University. With good grades, flying experience and a letter of recommendation from her ROTC supervisor, she became one of the first women to go straight from college into Air Force pilot training. "That was by far the biggest break of my life, getting into pilot training." This is the point where Collins set her goals on staying competitive for becoming an astronaut.

At the official announcement of Collins as the First Woman Space Shuttle Commander in the White House on March 5, 1998, Eileen smiled broadly and said, "When I was a child, I dreamed about space — I admired pilots, astronauts, and I've admired explorers of all kinds. It is my hope that all children, boys and girls, will see this mission and be inspired to reach for their dreams, because dreams do come true!"

To read more about Collins, visit www.womeninaviation.com. For more information about the movies, call Sanders at Ext. 7004.

41st FTS instructor pilot saves woman, dog from fire

Staff Sgt. Kyle Ford
Public affairs

A 41st Flying Training Squadron member saved a woman and her dog from a burning house Feb. 4.

First Lt. Ryan Brader was driving home late from work when he noticed smoke billowing from a house. He didn't see any emergency vehicles, so he decided to see if he could help.

"When I arrived, I found a man standing outside his house, watching it burn," Brader said. "I'll never forget the look on his face."

Brader asked the man if anyone was inside and the man replied that his wife had gone back to get their puppies. So Brader went around to the back of the house and saw the kitchen door open.

"From the waist down, visibility was pretty clear, but from the waist up, the smoke was pretty intense," Brader said. "I peered into the kitchen and saw the

lady lying in the fetal position."

He crawled over to her and found a "grief stricken, sobbing woman holding three motionless puppies. She said the puppies were dead."

It didn't look like she planned to go anywhere soon, he said. "I told her that they might be breathing and 'boom,' she popped up and was out with the puppies." He said he felt bad for lying to her about the puppies, but it probably saved her life.

When they met her husband outside, he asked Brader, "Where is Valentine?"

"At first I thought it was a child, but it was a fourth dog trapped in the spare bedroom," Brader said. "I had seen the room from the kitchen, so I went back into the house looking for the dog. All I did was open the door to the room and called for Valentine. The dog was not burned but was having trouble breathing."

When Brader returned to the owner of the house, he asked if the fire department had been called. "The man said that the phone was in the house, so I called

on my cell phone."

After alerting the fire department, Brader then coordinated veterinary services and helped ensure the family find shelter by getting in touch with their church leaders.

"Lieutenant Brader doesn't think he did anything special," said Capt. Lee Gentile Jr., 41st Flying Training Squadron executive officer. "He's that kind of guy. He doesn't think twice about putting whatever he's got on his plate aside for other people."

"I didn't really do anything," Brader said of his experience. "It was just one of those weird things that happen on the way home from work."

"Many people would say that going back for the dog was a stupid thing to do," Gentile said. "I think it was admirable because that dog is the only thing they have left. I think that couple will remember him for the rest of their lives."

Developing leaders: Key to military future

Lt. Col. Chris King
14th Operations Group



Our profession is unique when compared to the spectrum of civilian careers. No other career can take you away from the comfort of your home to a distant country with little or no warning and place you in harm's way. How is it we are able to sustain such a capable volunteer force?

The answer is leadership and training. Without these two key ingredients, our military would quickly slip down from its standing as the most powerful and feared military in the world.

We have been blessed with hundreds of outstanding military leaders over the 200-plus-year existence of our country. Many of these well-known historical leaders were extremely capable senior officers whose decisions during times of conflict have determined the fate of battles and whole armies.

However, the real strength of our military is derived from the lower-level leaders on the front lines of our daily operations — they are the true force multipliers.

Who are these front-line leaders? They are the mid-level leaders in every section of the workplace — they range from the youngest of airmen to our mid-level officers. You can spot these inspiring leaders because they are the ones who continually push their sections towards excellence. They have what I characterize as an intense of feeling of "unit ownership." This sense of dedication broadens their perspective on how their role (no matter how small) is vital to the success of their unit. Further, their actions impact how others perceive the importance of their work and create a synergistic effect within their section and eventually across the unit. These leaders constantly look to improve themselves by improving

... These leaders truly have an infectious effect on those around them in the workplace — I call this the "Pelfrey Effect"...

their professional knowledge and technical expertise. Leaders of this caliber not only care about the mission, but also about their co-workers. They truly have an infectious effect on those around them in the workplace — I call this the "Pelfrey Effect," after Senior Master Sgt. Tom Pelfrey.

We all know from our professional military education and other military training that outstanding leaders are developed through hands-on training from their supervisors. Therefore, I challenge all supervisors to dedicate a portion of their energies on developing our future leaders. More seasoned military leaders will tell you that this often means spending more time supervising a young troop than doing the job yourself, and consider it an inherent "cost of doing business."

A good plan for building future leaders should include the following template:

❑ First, provide them with the example of how to lead. There is no better method of teaching than by direct observation.

❑ Second, give them leadership challenges and provide them with the opportunity to learn — even if it means they will fail.

❑ Third, after they have all the correct tools for the job, give them real responsibility with direct feedback on performance.

❑ Fourth, reward success and promptly correct substandard performance. Finally, don't expect instantaneous results — developing leadership skills is an ongoing process that will last as long as a person is in the military.

I'll leave you with the following thoughts/questions:

❑ Who are the two most effective leaders in your organization — select an enlisted member and an officer — is your name on that list?

❑ What characteristics do they have which makes them an effective leader?

❑ Do you share those skills and teach them to your subordinates?

❑ Does the unit leadership encourage "ownership" within your section?

Remember ... Our future Air Force will only be as good as you make it.

STRAIGHT TALK LINE



Staff Sgt. Kyle Ford

Col. Tom Quelly, 14th Flying Training Wing commander, and Martha Mann, child development center director, stand under the protection of the new awning at the center. The awning was part of recent construction at the center which widened the driveway to the front door as well as the sidewalk to the door which the awning covers.

The Straight Talk Line is your direct line to the commander for comments and suggestions on how to make Columbus AFB a better place.

Although the Straight Talk Line is always available, the best way to resolve problems is through the chain of command.

The Straight Talk Line phone number is 434-7058. Callers should leave their full name and phone number to receive an answer. All names will be kept confidential.

Messages may be answered in the Silver Wings without names.

Written questions may also be brought to the public affairs office in the wing headquarters building, Bldg. 724. Questions and answers will be edited for brevity.

SILVER WINGS

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14th FTW commander
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Chief, public affairs
Pam Warnken
Editor

Senior Airman Amanda Mills
Staff writer
Staff Sgt. Shelby Martin

Key phone numbers

Base Exchange.....	434-6013
Chaplain.....	434-2500
Civil Engineer Service Desk.....	434-2856
Civilian Personnel.....	434-2635
Clinic:	
Family Practice.....	434-2172
Appointment Desk.....	434-2273
After Hours Care.....	434-2273
Columbus Club.....	434-2489
Commissary.....	434-7106
Finance.....	434-2706
Housing Maintenance.....	434-7270
Inspector General.....	434-2927
Legal Office.....	434-7030
Military Equal Opportunity.....	434-2591
Security Forces.....	434-7129
Shoppette.....	434-6026

Phase I: ‘Slackademics’ or tough stuff?

Second Lt. Amy Hansen
Public Affairs

(Editor’s note: This is the second in a series of four stories about pilot training.)

Well-worn blue industrial couches line the room. A pot of tepid coffee lingers on the hot plate in the corner, nestled next to the snack shelf, which is getting a little low on candy bars. The refrigerator suddenly hums to life, working overtime to cool its caffeinated contents.

The bathroom door down the hall bangs open and shut. Lieutenants begin to trickle into the lounge from Classroom Two to sprawl on the couches. Quarters clink into the money drawer and soda cans are popped open, infusing their owners with enough chemical alertness to overcome the fatigue from an all-nighter. “So what’d you think?” one flight-suit clad officer asks another.

Although the six weeks of academics that kick off Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training are commonly called “slackademics” by students farther along in the program, the group relaxing in the lounge might disagree. It’s the fourth day of SUPT Phase I, and the new class has just completed their first academic course with a 30-question test. Their study material? The first fifty pages or so of the technical order for the T-37, usually referred to with a mixture of awe and

intimidation as the “Dash One” or the “Tweet Bible.” When asked if he had been prepared for the intensity of Phase I, 2nd Lt. Rob Sanders replied with a tired grin, “I don’t think you can ever be ready. It’s fast-paced. If you’re not studying and keeping up, you’re behind.”

Even the instructors agree that academics can be a rude awakening. “Students bust their first test and then realign,” says Rick Sandifer, chief of the contract academic instructors from Lear-Siegler Service, Inc., “They realize that this isn’t college anymore.” But Sandifer also admits that most students complete the six courses, including Systems, Flying Fundamentals, Aerodynamics, Weather, Basic Instruments and a two-week physiology portion, with an academic average in the high 90s. The Air Force designs concrete learning objectives and test questions first, and then bases classroom instruction directly on these objectives, Sandifer explains.

Despite the straightforward nature of the academics in Phase I, the sheer volume of things to be accomplished in a short six weeks can be overwhelming. Students can be in academics for up to six hours a day, not including up to two hours each day of briefings from base agencies, helmet fittings and physical exams. In addition, they are required to complete almost 30 hours of lessons in the computer-assisted



Second Lt. Amy Hansen

Second Lt. Jon Zito, Class 03-06 student, is pulled into the air, where he will be released at 300 feet to practice a parachute descent and landing.

instruction lab.

The consequences of poor time management can be severe; students that score less than 85 percent on three academic tests are subject to a review board. This is the elimination process that could send them packing, their dreams of flight left unfulfilled.

In the two-week physiology course, failing a test is not what Maj. Dave Carey, physiology flight commander, is worried about. Here, students simulate an ascent to 35,000 feet in the altitude chamber, practice parachute landing falls, and memorize basic survival skills. “We give

[students] the tools to survive at high altitudes,” Carey said, “Hopefully, they remember these skills for life, not just for UPT.”

The buzz in the lounge dies down as the last student shuffles in. “He’s done grading them,” he says. “Nobody failed.” Relief descends on the room and a chorus of happy chatter can be heard as students recount near misses. As they file back into Classroom Two, CAI lab project manager Stu Stewart comments, “It amazes me to see how many hours the students put in just to become pilots. If we were open earlier, they’d be here earlier.”

Maintaining combat edge with innovation, cooperation

Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — “To my mind, the ‘T’ in ‘Transformation’ stands for time,” Air Force Maj. Gen. Daniel “Fig” Leaf said during an interview.

Leaf, director of operational requirements at Air Force headquarters, said the U.S. military can already act quicker than anyone else, but it must continue to maintain this edge to fight the war on terrorism.

An important part of America’s advantage, said Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, is a culture of innovation, a willingness on the part of commanders and subordinates to take risks and try new methods and ideas.

Afghanistan is a proving ground of some of these concepts. Rumsfeld has continually pointed to Army Special Forces and Air Force combat controllers calling in pinpoint air strikes while participating in a horse cavalry charge as an example of the type of flexible thinking required to transform the military.

Leaf said the world has not seen such an offensive air-ground capability since World War II, when the 9th Tactical Air Force spurred innovation by placing FM radios in aircraft and air controllers in planes and on the front lines. This was not a top-down driven action, but a capability fielded by soldiers and airmen. It worked brilliantly. The integrated air and ground forces guarded Gen. George Patton’s flank as he swept across France after the invasion at Normandy.

“They leveraged the complementary capabilities of two

different arms of military forces,” Leaf said. “They realized they could complement each other and then maintained through forward air controllers and proper equipment the degree of synchronization needed.”

Recently, U.S. forces have returned to the World War II model of using combined forces as an offensive power. One key, Leaf said, has been the liaison between forces. “We’ve had Air Force people on the ground. They look an awful lot like soldiers except they have Air Force rank.”

The air operations center also has a joint service approach. “If you walk into that facility, you see a great representation of all the services and our partner nations,” Leaf said. Service members “side-by-side wearing different uniforms” and offering their expertise give commanders an awareness they would not have otherwise. Leaf gave one example that occurred in Afghanistan. A Northern Alliance commander turned to an Air Force air control specialist and said he wanted to attack Taliban forces on the next ridge. “He thought it would be a day or two before the strike came in,” Leaf said. Nineteen minutes after the airman’s call, Taliban positions were bombarded with precision accuracy.

Communications improvements have also allowed an unprecedented exchange of information. Interoperable radios and computers have sped up reaction time.

This flexibility and interoperability is superior even to that demonstrated during Desert Storm. Then, air tasking orders had to be physically delivered to land bases and carriers at sea. Now, data links join air, ground and sea

forces and will be the most fertile area to explore as the services move forward. These advances, coupled with the Global Positioning System, laser range finders and similar technology allow planners to integrate their efforts, Leaf said. These changes make bombers as flexible as fighters.

Other Defense Department personnel agree. They cite the way pilots and weapons officers in the air can enter aim points into precision-guided munitions which reflect the constantly changing situation on the battlefield. Each bomb carried by a B-1B, B-2 or B-52 bomber can be programmed to knock out a specific target, which has a devastating effect on the enemy.

Unmanned aerial vehicles bring another tool to the arsenal of the United States. The fiscal 2003 defense budget request includes an additional \$1 billion for development in this field. Leaf believes investing in the potential capabilities of these projects is a good way to “seize the initiative.”

Today, no other military in the world can do what the United States now routinely does, but our future success depends on continued interservice cooperation and innovation. This goal requires the skill of pilots and ground observers, but also information from the National Imaging and Mapping Agency, intelligence resources, and a myriad of other agencies.

The only way the U.S. military can maintain its global superiority, Leaf said, is by working together to improve their capabilities and by integrating technologies. He said, “It is not something anyone can do alone.”

Magnolian Inn competes for best of the best

1st Lt. Joachim Exner
Combat Support Flight Chief

Columbus’ Magnolia Inn Lodging is in the finals for best Air Education and Training Command Lodging Operation, also known as Inns of Excellence.

This annual competition consists of two main categories; small and large base. Columbus AFB, with 67 rooms, falls into the small base competitor category, an installation with 25-285 transient bed spaces.

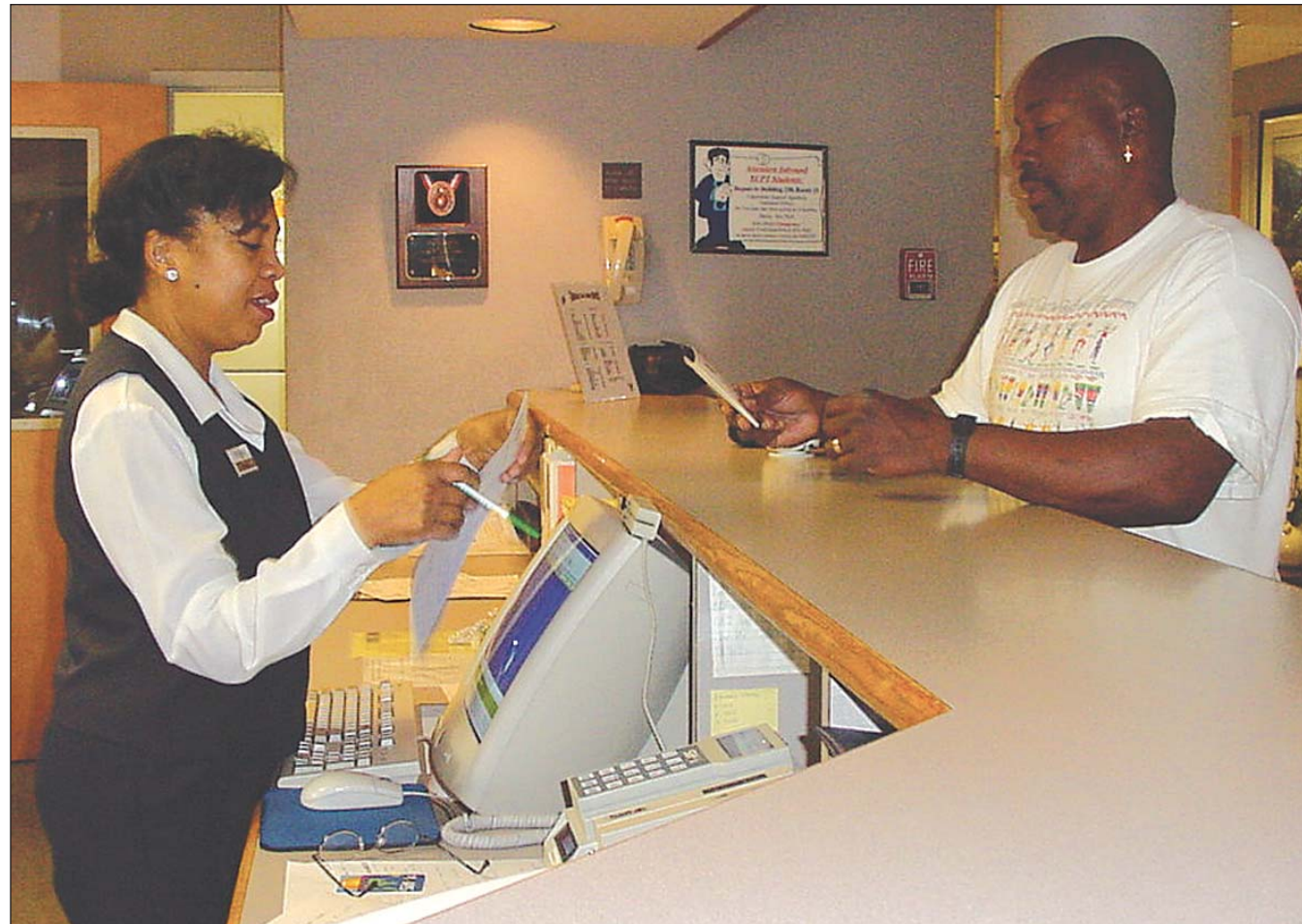
How did Columbus AFB get there? “First, competitors submitted a two-page award nomination form and a 31-page Innkeeper Evaluation Checklist which identifies how lodging takes care of customers; housekeeping, customer service, and general requirements for transient quarters,” said Randy Henline, 14th Support Group services division chief.

Late Feb. 22, lodging were notified by headquarters AETC that it was were a finalist. “Now it’s onto the next step of the competition; a visit from the Innkeeper Evaluation team Tuesday through March 8,” Henline said. “During this period, team members will observe all aspects of the lodging operation. They’ll later discuss their findings to reach a consensus for each category in the checklist. The evaluators are tasked to conduct a fair, thorough evaluation, and select the best lodging operation in AETC. After all, it will recognize the ‘The Best of the Best’ and just to be a finalist is a major accomplishment.”

So why is the Magnolia Inn in the finals? Apart from having a super group of individuals, Magnolia Inn provided exceptional teamwork after Sept. 11; management took the lead in providing our MAJCOM with an overview of the Department of Defense-wide Individual Mobilization Augmentee (IMA) recall challenge. This information was key to long-range IMA coordination and planning. Columbus solved the crisis by utilizing over 50 percent of its Temporary Lodging Facilities (TLFs) in support of Operation NOBLE EAGLE. In addition, front desk operations provided a comforting and relaxing atmosphere to customers, providing over 27,996 bednights in 2001.



Catherine Hutchinson (far left), lodging trainer, provides assistance to new employees Tanya Stiles and Laura Taylor.



Photos by Pam Wickham

Susan Thompson, front desk clerk, issues Mack McCoy a room key.

Also provided for the guest is a furnished lobby, complementary cappuccino, coffee, hot chocolate, and reading materials as well as implementation of a paperback trade; a collection consisting of used books that are traded in and out by customers.

The lodging staff also provided a strong community spirit and dedicated many hours to support base beddown for families with homes destroyed and damage after a disastrous wind storm left hundreds of people without food and shelter in February 2001. The lodging team also provided coordination efforts for the 2001 Wings Over Columbus Air Show with over 45,000 spectators.

Systematic partnership with commercial lodging resulted in successful billeting of 394 TDY visitors.

“The Magnolia Inn is one of the best kept secrets in the Air Force,” said Capt. Alisa Bernard 14th Support Group services deputy division chief. “We have a great facility and an awesome team who are well on their way to be the best in AETC and beyond.”

The lodging staff is currently working on a major effort to re-designate 22 three-bedroom military family housing units to transient quarters. The current TLFs provide 389 square feet of living space. The conversion will give transient families an additional 900 square feet; a definite quality-of-life improvement. Magnolia Inn is also working to convert 20 TLFs to Visiting Quarters (VQ), and 28 shared-bath rooms to VQs. The entire project will leave Columbus with 20 new TLFs with 1,300 square foot space and 53 VQ rooms which will provide the same standard of living for all guests —



Sheila Keefer, room service provider, makes up a bed.

Services: check us out

✓ **Bingo:** Bar bingo is offered at 5:30 p.m. Fridays in the enlisted lounge. There are two \$25 regular games, two \$50 regular games and a \$500 progressive jackpot with a consolation prize of \$50 if the jackpot does not go in 54 numbers or less.

Two door prizes for lunch at the Columbus Club will be drawn Fridays. The enlisted lounge opens at 5 p.m. A services card is required to play. Call Ext. 2489.

✓ **Enlisted lounge entertainment:** Disc jockey Maze entertains from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. today. Call Ext. 2489.

✓ **Mexican buffet:** The Columbus Club's Tuesday night buffet features a Mexican buffet from 5 to 7:30 p.m. Cost is \$7.95 for services card holders and \$10.95 for nonmembers. Call Ext. 2489.

✓ **Spring Break day camp:** The youth center has openings available for this special camp from 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. March 11 to 15. The program is open to children in grades kindergarten to sixth grades. Parents must provide their child's shot records and a current leave and earnings statement. Fees are based on income. Call Ext. 2504.

✓ **Disney World/Universal Studio Trip:** Spend Spring break, March 11 to 15, in Orlando, Fla. for the Information, Ticket and Travel trip to Disney World and Universal Studios. Cost is \$160 each for the first two people in the same room, \$75 for a third person, \$50 for a fourth person and free to the fifth person. Cost includes four nights lodging, transportation and shuttle service while in Orlando. Free tickets for active duty personnel are available to Disney World and Universal Studios. Half price tickets available for active duty family members. Call Ext. 7858.

✓ **Child care spaces available:** The child development center has full time spaces available in the six week- to six month- and the 3-to 4-year-old rooms. Parents may also place their child on the waiting list for other age groups. Call Ext. 2479.

✓ **U-frame-it workshop:** Do-it-yourself in this self-paced class for beginner framers. Classes meet two hours, two days a week for two weeks. People can learn to cut mats and frames and what materials to use. Cost is \$25 per student and includes all supplies. Dates and times are flexible. Call Ext. 7836.

✓ **Crafts classes:** The skills development center's upcoming classes for adults include making a bunny trail yard decoration on March 12, folded star Easter eggs on March 19 or a mosaic patio stone March 26. Children's crafts classes include making a wooden bunny, a bunny bell necklace, silverware bunnies or a bunny box. Cost for children's classes is \$4 and includes

all supplies. Register at least four days in advance. Call the skills development center at Ext. 7836 for dates and times or stop by the center to check out the display of craft class projects.

✓ **Annual golf memberships due:** The Whispering Pines Golf Course annual golf memberships are due April 1st. Annual membership fees are based on rank and include unlimited greens fees, free Golf Handicap and Information Network (GHIN) handicap and discounts on tournaments throughout the year. Call Ext. 7932.

✓ **Professional basketball game:** The Memphis Grizzlies play the Sacramento Kings at 7 p.m. April 2 in Memphis, Tenn. Cost is \$60 and includes transportation and ticket to the game. Bus departs at noon. Call the Information, Ticket and Travel (ITT) office at Ext. 7858 for reservations.

✓ **Parents day/night out:** The child development center offers a parents night out from 6 to 10 p.m. March 9 and a parents day out from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. March 16. Reservations are required at least three days in advance. Cost is \$2.50 an hour per child and a nonrefundable \$5 deposit is required when making reservations. Call Ext. 2479.

✓ **Give Parents a Break:** Children, ages six weeks to 12 years, are eligible to participate in this program offered from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. March 16 at the children development center. Any family with special circumstances such as a member TDY or remote or just an unusual situation may qualify. Contact the family support center to receive a certificate for participation. Then contact the child development center at Ext. 2479 to make a reservation.

✓ **Golf course new hours:** Whispering Pines Golf Course new hours of operation begin today. They are now open seven days a week from 7 a.m. until dusk. Call Ext. 7932.

✓ **Patty LaBelle concert:** Register at the ITT office for this concert April 6 at the Silver Star Casino in Philadelphia, Miss. Cost is \$65 and includes transportation, ticket to the concert and \$10 in coin.

Concert time is 8 p.m. The bus will leave at 5:30 p.m. from the community center parking lot and return at approximately 2 a.m. Register by March 31. Call Ext. 7858.

✓ **Women's history month:** Stop by the base library from Monday to March 22 to check out the book display celebrating the accomplishments of women. Call Ext. 2934.

✓ **Birmingham shopping trip:** The youth center offers a trip for grades 7 through 12 to the Birmingham Mall March 30. Cost is \$3 for members and \$5 for nonmembers. Register by March 27. Must have eight registered to offer. Call Ext. 2504.



Athena Brimer

Club member wins \$100

Diane Stone poses with Ed Nunn, club manager, after he presents her with a check for \$100 as one of the weekly winners in the AETC Caribbean Cruise promotion program. Six names will be drawn today from all the entries submitted in this month-long program and forwarded to AETC for the grand prize drawings for two Caribbean Cruises for two. Grand prize winners will be announced on or about March 15.



Casino Trip to

Harrah's Casino

in Tunica, Miss., March 30
Cost: \$20 per person
Includes transportation and \$5 in coins.

Call the Information, Ticket and Travel Office at Ext. 7858.

**Congratulations
Magnolia Inn Lodging
for being selected as a
Semi-Finalist
in the
Inns of Excellence Award
for 2002
Best of Luck during the
Awards Evaluation!**

Visit the Services website at ...
www.cafbgrapevine.com

Columbus Club Lunch Buffet

Served from
11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Cost: \$4.95 for members
\$7.50 for nonmembers
Price includes
vegetable of the day,
salad and tea

Today
Fried Catfish
Baked Ham
Apple Crisпитos

Monday
Fried Chicken
Meat Loaf
Banana Pudding

Tuesday
Spaghetti
Lasagna
Peach Cobbler

Wednesday
Pork Chops
Bratwurst
Apple Dumplings

Thursday
Lemon Pepper Chicken
Fettucini Alfredo
Banana Pudding

AT THE CHAPEL

Chapel schedule

Catholic

Sunday activities:

10:45 a.m. — CCD

5 p.m. — Confessions

5:30 p.m. — Mass

Friday

11:30 a.m. — Communion

Protestant

Sunday activities:

9:15 a.m. — Sunday school

10:45 a.m. — Contemporary worship

Wednesdays

5:30 p.m. — Video Bible study supper

7:15 p.m. — Choir rehearsal

Thursdays

11:30 a.m. — Lunch Bible study

For Islamic, Jewish or Orthodox services, or other chapel programs, call the chapel at Ext. 2500.

AT THE MOVIES

All movies are shown at 7 p.m., unless otherwise noted, at the base theater.

Today

"Orange County" (PG-13, drug content, language and sexuality, 85min.)
Starring: Colin Hanks and Jack Black.

Saturday

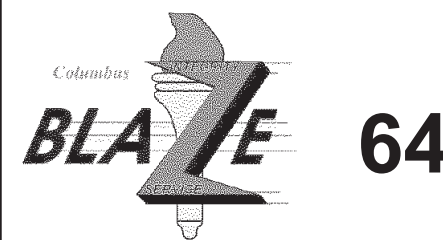
"Kung Pow" (PG-13, comic violence, crude sexual humor, 82 min.)
Starring: Steve Oedekerk and Leo Lee.

March 8

"Blackhawk Down" (R, intense, realistic, graphic war violence, 144 min.)
Starring: Josh Hartnett and Ewan McGregor.

March 9

"A Beautiful Mind" (PG-13, intense thematic material, sexual content, 135 min.)
Starring Russell Crowe and Ed Harris.
BLAZE 64 offers announcements



for people living in base housing or the dormitories.

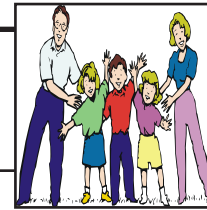
Call Staff Sgt. Kyle Ford for more information at Ext. 7073.

Weekdays

9 a.m., noon and 2 p.m.

Air Force Television News

FAMILY SUPPORT



(Editor's note: All activities are offered at the family support center unless otherwise specified. For more information, call Ext. 2790.)

Happy landings: The center offers information for new arrivals to Columbus AFB from 8 to 10 a.m. Wednesday.

Education program: March 15 is the deadline to apply for the Air Force Aid Society's Gen. Henry H. Arnold Education Grant Program.

The grant totals \$1,500 and is available to eligible family members of active duty, Reservists on extended active duty, Title 32 full-time active duty, retired, retired Reservists with 20 years or more active-duty service and spouses of deceased Air Force members.

Self-improvement briefing: The center offers an assertiveness training class from 11 a.m. to noon or from 3:45 to 4:45 p.m. March 20. Call the center for reservations.

Deployed assistance: Families of deployed people are encouraged to call the family support center to find out what services they have to offer.

Women, Infants and Children: People can make an appointment at the center for the Women, Infants and Children program.

Nursing moms: The center offers breast pumps for rent or purchase to active-duty mothers or family members of active-duty who are breast feeding.

LIFE SKILLS SUPPORT



(Editor's note: All activities offered are at the family advocacy office located on the second floor of the 14th Medical Group unless otherwise specified. For more information, call Ext. 2239.)

Special needs: The Exceptional Family Member Program is designed to ensure service availability for active-duty family members with special needs.

The need must be identified at the current duty station or before a permanent change of station.

The program assists families with relocation when a medical condition exists, helping them find resources on base and in the local community.

BASE NOTES



SUPT: Specialized Undergraduate Class 02-06 assignment night is at 5 p.m. today at the Columbus Club. Call Ext. 2489.

ESC social: The enlisted spouses club will meet at 6:30 p.m. Monday at the community center. Call 434-8452.

Spouses social: The officers spouses club offers a social at 6:30 p.m. March 19 at the Columbus Club.

The social features Columbus and the Pilgrimage. The menu includes chef's salad for \$8 or stuffed chicken breast with roasted new potatoes for \$12. Non-Columbus Club members must pay a \$3 surcharge. Call Kim Jenkins at 434-8444.

Wing briefings: The quarterly wing commander's calls are at 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. and 3 p.m. March 29 at the theater. Call Ext. 2611.

Employee scholarships: The Federal Employees Education and Assistance Fund is accepting applications through March 29 for scholarships available to federal employees and families of military people.

The scholarships, which range from \$300 to \$1,500, are granted to applicants with at least a 3.0 grade point average who are enrolled or plan to enroll in an accredited post secondary school in a course of study that will lead to a two-year, four-year or graduate degree. Call Ext. 2563.

No medals: The Department of Defense has decided not to create a Cold War Medal.

People should be advised that the Cold War Medal being advertised and sold on the internet and at some military clothing sales stores is not authorized for wear on the military uniform. Call Ext. 2588.

Foreign student sponsor: The International Military Student Office of Columbus AFB is seeking people to sponsor foreign officers attending pilot training under the Security Assistance Training Program.

SATP was established to improve international relations and promote understanding of the U.S. way of life. Call Ext. 2750.

AROUND TOWN



Lighthouse aglow: A Columbus Lighthouse Aglow meeting is at 10:30 a.m. Saturday at the Columbus library. The guest speaker is Reba Manfre of God's Prevailing Truth Ministries, Inc. Call 327-2718.

Book friends: A Friends of the Library book sale is from 3 to 9 p.m. March 15, 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. March 16 and 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. March 17 at the Leigh Mall in Columbus. Call 329-5300 for information or to volunteer.

Women's show: The 12th annual Southern Women's Show is from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. March 22 and 23 and from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. March 24 at the Memphis Cook Convention Center. Call (800) 849-0248, Ext. 134.

Art lovers: People are invited to visit the Mississippi State University Annual Student Fine Arts and Graphic Design Exhibition now through March 22nd at the MSU Department of Art gallery. Call (662) 325-2970.

Easter presentation: Music of Easter will be presented by the Trinity Symphony Orchestra at 3 p.m. March 24 at the Trinity Presbyterian Church in Starkville, Miss. Call (662) 325-2713.

Free shade: The Arbor Day Foundation is giving free white flowering dogwood trees to people who join the foundation during March. The trees will be shipped at the right time for planting, between March 1st and May 31st, with enclosed planting instructions.

People will also receive a subscription to Arbor Day, the foundation's monthly publication, and The Tree Book with information about tree planting and care.

People interested in joining the foundation and receiving the trees can send a \$10 donation to Ten Free Dogwood Trees, National Arbor Day Foundation, 100 Arbor Avenue, Nebraska City, NE, 68410, by March 31.

Exchange students: Pacific Intercultural Exchange needs host families for exchange students. People interested can call (877) 710-8949.

Several take Columbus AFB bench press honors

Staff Sgt. Shelby Martin
Staff writer

Seven participants took first place honors at the Columbus AFB level of the Air Education and Training Command Muscle Mania 2002 Competition Feb. 22 at the fitness and sports center.

Brandon Sokora, Fulton Hogdes, Wes Koa, Ron Sapino, Cordell Weeks, Ryan Theiss, Fernando Zapsta, Brooke Beimer and Lisa Pelfrey were winners in their respective weight divisions.

The competition was based on the Wilkes Formula; an International Powerlifting Federation formula used to determine the best lift by multiplying the participant's body weight by the maximum lift.

The divisions included both men and women with body weights ranging from 140 to 231 pounds.

"This is my first competition," said Cordell Weeks, winner in the 165 to 181 division. "I just wanted to see if I could compete. I didn't do anything special, just lifted regularly and got lots of sleep the night before."

The goal of the competition is to promote fitness as a lifestyle, increase community awareness of the Air Force and to recognize athletes for their commitment to physical conditioning.

"This is my first competition, but I work out regularly which helped me bench press," said Lisa Pelfrey winner of the women's 140 and over weight class.

The competition drew a crowd of



Staff Sgt. Shelby Martin

Eric Neal, 148 and under weight class, attempts to lift 225 lbs. on his second lift during the competition.

onlookers primarily composed of active-duty military but some potential Air Force recruits were on hand to witness the competition.

"The competition is straight," said delayed program enlistee Andrew Thomas of Columbus. "I can't lift but I like some of the things the Air Force does when it comes to sports."

Some of the bench press winners will be picked to compete at the AETC level competition which will be held at Little Rock AFB, Ark.

"Headquarters AETC is sponsoring a muscle mania competition at every AETC base. In celebration of May Fitness Month, a chosen few will go to compete at Little Rock May 18," said

Rob Wilbourne, fitness and sports center. "AETC is also sponsoring bodybuilding and powerlifting competitions as well, but Columbus AFB didn't have bodybuilding participants or enough powerlifters.

"We want to send the best participants to represent Columbus and AETC," Wilbourne said.

SHORTS

Driving range reopens

The driving range reopens for use today. A bucket of 25 balls is \$1. Call Ext. 7932.

Golf tournament

The Whispering Pines Golf Course offers an alternate shot tournament at 9 a.m. March 9.

Each player will tee off on each hole. When the preferred shot has been selected, players will alternate from this point to completion of the hole. A computer will select teams. Cost is \$15 for members and \$15 plus green fees for non-members. Call Ext. 7932.

Mommies' Fun Run/Walk

A fun run starts at 11 a.m. March 15 at the fitness and sports center.

Mothers with small children are encouraged to come out and walk with their strollers. People can look for the 4-leaf clovers to win a prize. Call Ext. 2772.

Columbus AFB Grand Prix

People can signup at the fitness and sports center for a year-long grand prix contest.

Points will be calculated for each 5K run completed in

2002. People with the top three point totals will be awarded a trophy. Call Ext. 2772.

Aerobic classes

The fitness and sports center offers spinning classes at 5 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays, yoga at 6 p.m. Mondays, cardio step classes at 6 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, kickboxing at 6 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays and step and body sculpting classes at 11 a.m. Fridays. Call Ext. 2772.

Bowling tournament

A youth pro-am bowling tournament is scheduled for 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. March 16 and 17 and March 23 and 24. Entry is \$10 per two-person team. Call Ext. 2426.

Family bowling days

Bring the family to the bowling center for family day bowling from 1 to 9 p.m. Sundays. Bowling is \$1.25 per game and shoes are free. Call Ext. 2426.

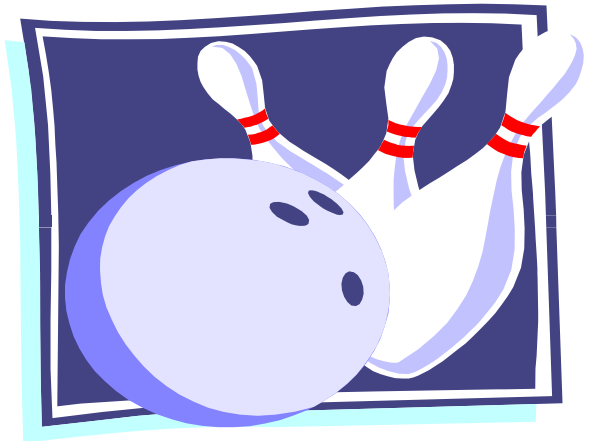
Bowling special

The bowling center offers a bowling special Mondays and Wednesdays from 3 to 9 p.m. Bowling is \$1.50 per game and shoes are free. Call Ext. 2426.

Bowling standings

The following are the intramural bowling standings current as of Wednesday. For more information, call Jim Campbell at Ext. 2426.

Team	Wins	Losses
Stroken	130	30
14th SFSI	97	63
14th SVS	92	68
14th MSS	92	68
Retirees	89	71
14th SFS2	62	98
Team 7	50	110



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